

HEMEROBIUS MARGINATUS STEPHENS (NEUROPTERA: HEMEROBIIDAE) IN A WILTSHIRE WOODLAND IN 1987. — A single male example of *Hemerobius marginatus* was captured in a malaise trap operated in Langley Wood National Nature Reserve during the last week of June and the first week of July, 1987, apparently a new record for Wiltshire. According to F. J. Killington's *A monograph of the British Neuroptera* (Ray Society: 1937), most of the British localities are northern, and Killington himself had never seen an example from the south of England. Scottish records predominate, whilst the counties listed for England and Wales are Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cornwall, Cumberland, Denbigh, Derbyshire, Durham, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Lancashire, Northumberland, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Westmoreland and Yorkshire. The insect is also recorded for Ireland. Later, in 1959, F. C. Fraser's key to Mecoptera and Neuroptera in the Royal Entomological Society series *Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects* vol. 1 parts 12 and 13, states simply "*Distributed in the north of England, Scotland and Ireland*". Amongst the specimens in the British Neuroptera cabinet at the Natural History Museum in South Kensington English counties are represented by Lancashire, Shropshire and Cumbria only. An Essex record published in *The Neuroptera of Essex* (Passmore Edwards Museum, 1985) is now known to be erroneous.

It would seem possible, therefore, that *H. marginatus* may indeed occur, albeit in low density, in suitable habitat elsewhere in southern England, having quite simply been overlooked by entomologists. It is principally an insect of deciduous woodland, and specific associations have been noted with birch, alder and hazel. The Langley Wood malaise trap was sited across a stream in a damp hollow amongst alders.

I am grateful to Peter Barnard at the Natural History Museum for allowing me to examine the specimens in the National Collection. COLIN W. PLANT, Passmore Edwards Museum, Romford Road, Stratford, London E15 4LZ.

LARVAE OF OURAPTERYX SAMBUCARIA (L.) (GEOMETRIDAE) FEEDING ON SOLIDAGO CANADENSIS (L.) (COMPOSITAE) — Larvae of this species feed on the leaves of a wide variety of shrubs and trees and appear to be unusual on herbaceous plants. In September 1987 I found three larvae on the alien goldenrod, *Solidago canadensis*, growing in my Oxford garden. The plant was growing some distance from the nearest shrubs and trees and they therefore could not have strayed; they were later transferred to birch. DENIS F. OWEN, 2, Shelford Place, Headington, Oxford.